

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed March 9, 2004, the examiner allowed applicant's claims 41, 43 and 44, and identified the presence of allowable subject matter in claims 33, 36 and 40. Applicant's remaining claims 30, 32, 34-35, and 37-38 were rejected in view of several asserted combinations of cited prior art references.

In addition, the examiner rejected claims 35-37 for alleged indefiniteness, and objected to applicant's prior-presented proposed revision to FIG. 3 of the drawings.

In response, applicant has edited the specification and claims of this application in a manner believed to be consistent with the examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, thereby placing all of the claims as now presented in proper condition for allowance. Accordingly, claims 30, 32, 34-38, 41, and 43-44 are respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, particularly for the reasons noted in the following remarks.

Revision to the Specification

In view of the examiner's objection to applicant's prior-submitted proposed revision to FIG. 3, applicant has by this Response re-edited the specification at page 9 to return the text to the original as-filed form. Specifically, applicant has deleted the prior-submitted revised language referring to the proposed drawing revision.

Revisions to the Claims

Independent claim 30 has been revised by this Response to incorporate the limitations from related and now-canceled dependent claim 33. Since the

examiner identified allowable subject matter in claim 33, independent claim 30 as now presented is believed to be in proper condition for allowance.

Related dependent claims 32, and 34-37 remain in this application, and depend from parent claim 30. Of these dependent claims, claim 35 has been edited to address the examiner's Section 112 rejection, and claim 36 has been amended to delete reference to the previously recited strap marking. As now written, these dependent claims 32 and 34-37 are believed to clear and definite in all respects, and therefore are submitted for allowance with parent claim 30.

Independent claim 38 has been revised by this Response to incorporate the limitations from related and now-canceled dependent claim 40. Since the examiner identified allowable subject matter in claim 40, independent claim 38 as now presented is also believed to be in proper condition for allowance.

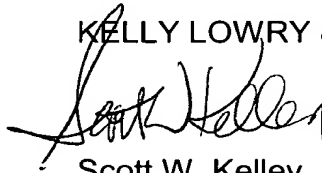
Independent claim 41 and its related dependent claims 43-44 stand previously allowed. However, to resolve any issue regarding the prior-submitted proposed revision to FIG. 3 of the drawings, dependent claim 43 has been amended to delete reference to the previously recited strap marking. As now presented, claims 41 and 43-44 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In conclusion, in view of the foregoing remarks and related revisions to the claims, claims 30, 32, 34-38, 41 and 43-44 as now presented are submitted for reconsideration and allowance. A Notice of Allowance is believed to be in order, and is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

KELLY LOWRY & KELLEY, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott W. Kelley", is written over the printed name.

Scott W. Kelley
Registration No. 30,762

SWK:cw
6320 Canoga Avenue, Suite 1650
Woodland Hills, California 91367
(818) 347-7900